

REMARKS**I. Introduction--Claim Status**

This Amendment is submitted in response to the outstanding Office Action of October 15, 2001, and subsequent to a Notice of Appeal submitted on March 15, 2002, and is accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination Under 37 CFR §1.114, and a Petition for Extension of Time with fee payment authorization.

The Office Action indicates that claims 36-105 are pending, and that claims 57-70 and 92-105 have been withdrawn from consideration. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 37-42, 44-56, 72-84 and 86-91 have been allowed. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the herewith presented amendments and remarks.

II. The Prior Art Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 36, 43, 71, and 85 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nicia et al (US Patent No. 4,741,588).

Applicants have amended independent claims 36, 43, and 71 to include the limitations recited in directly dependent claims 37, 44, and 72 that stand allowed in the Office Action. Thus, claims 36, 43, and 71, and claims dependent thereon, should be allowed. Applicants additionally submit, however, that the dependent claims add limitations which in combination with the limitations of the claims upon which they are dependent are additionally patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and Applicants does not waive or disclaim their right to present additional grounds for

patentability based on the limitations added by the dependent claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that by this amendment the §103(a) rejection has been obviated and rendered moot, and thus should be withdrawn.

III. Objection to Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for allegedly failing to show all features of the claimed invention, viz., the image generator. Applicant has amended the claims for additional clarity by reciting "a liquid crystal panel" instead of "an image generator". Since a liquid crystal panel is clearly shown in the drawings, e.g., identified by reference numerals 254 and 256 in Fig. 3, Applicant respectfully submits that this objection is obviated and rendered moot and thus should be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections is respectfully requested and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully submitted. If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

AUTHORIZATION

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4046US2.


In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Assistant Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4046US2.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 18, 2002

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AMENDMENT ANNEX WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please cancel claims 37, 44, 51, 72, 79 and 86 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows, bracketing and underlining identifying deleted text and added text, respectively.

36. (Five times amended) A [polarizing device] polarization changing unit comprising:

a lens array that makes a plurality of light beams; and

a polarizing device comprising:

a transparent plate which has a polarizing beam splitting surface on one surface and a reflection surface on the other surface, wherein [light] each of said plurality of light beams is incident on said transparent plate from said one surface side to be split into reflected light and transmitted light by said polarizing beam splitting surface so that the transmitted light is directed to said other surface and the transmitted light is [caused to] passed through said one surface by reflection by said reflection surface; and

a half wavelength plate array that causes [for causing] polarizing directions of the transmitted light and the reflected light for each of the plurality of light beams which have been split by said polarizing beam splitting surface to be mutually coincident.

38. (Twice amended) A polarization changing unit according to Claim [37] 36, wherein said lens array is a cylindrical lens array or a fly eye lens array.

39. (Twice Amended) An image apparatus comprising:
[a polarizing device of claim 36 or]
a polarization changing unit of claim 38; and
a liquid crystal panel [an image generator] for modulating a polarized light from
[said polarizing device or] said polarization changing unit to generate an image light.

40. (Amended) An image apparatus according to claim 39, further comprising a
projecting system for projecting said image light from said [image generator] liquid
crystal panel.

41. (Thrice amended) An image apparatus comprising:
a polarization changing unit of claim [37] 36; and
a liquid crystal panel that modulates [an image generator for modulating] a
polarized light from [said polarizing device or] said polarization changing unit to
generate an image light.

42. (Amended) An image apparatus according to claim 41, further comprising a
projecting system for projecting said image light from said [image generator] liquid
crystal panel.

43. (Five times amended) A [polarizing device] polarization changing unit
comprising:

a lens array that makes a plurality of light beams; and

a polarizing device comprising:

a transparent plate which has a polarizing beam splitting surface on one surface and a reflection surface on the other surface, wherein [light] each of said plurality of light beams is incident on said transparent plate from said one surface side to be split into reflected light and transmitted light by said polarizing beam splitting surface so that the transmitted light is directed to said other surface and the transmitted light is [caused to] passed through said one surface by reflection by said reflection surface;

a half wavelength plate [for causing] that causes polarizing directions of the transmitted light and the reflected light for each of the plurality of light beams which have been split by said polarizing beam splitting surface to be mutually coincident; and

a prism [means] disposed on said one surface side of said transparent plate, wherein for each of said plurality of light beams the light is incident on said transparent plate through [one of mutually orthogonal surfaces] a surface of said prism [means] and the light from said transparent plate is outgoing through [the other one of said mutually orthogonal surfaces] another surface of said prism, said another surface being orthogonal to said surface.

45. (Twice amended) A polarization changing unit according to Claim [44] 43, wherein said lens array is a cylindrical lens array or a fly eye lens array.

46. (Amended) An image apparatus comprising:
[a polarizing device of claim 43 or]
a polarization changing unit of claim 45; and
a liquid crystal panel [an image generator] for modulating a polarized light
from [said polarizing device or] said polarization changing unit to generate an image
light.

47. (Amended) An image apparatus according to claim 46, further comprising a
projecting system for projecting said image light from said [image generator] liquid
crystal panel.

48. (Thrice Amended) An image apparatus comprising:
a polarization changing unit of claim [44] 43; and
a liquid crystal panel that modulates [an image generator for modulating a]
polarized light from [said polarizing device or] said polarization changing unit to
generate an image light.

49. (Amended) An image apparatus according to claim 48, further comprising a
projecting system for projecting said image light from said [image generator] liquid
crystal panel.

50. (Twice amended) A polarizing changing unit [element] according to Claim 36,
wherein said polarizing beam splitting surface is formed on over all of said one surface

and said reflection surface is formed on all of said the other one surface.

52. (Amended) A polarization changing unit according to Claim [51] 50, wherein said lens array is a cylindrical lens array or a fly eye lens array.

53. (Amended) An image apparatus comprising:
[a polarizing device of claim 50 or]
a polarization changing unit of claim 52; and
a liquid crystal panel [an image generator] for modulating a polarized light from said polarizing device or said polarization changing unit to generate an image light.

54. (Amended) An image apparatus according to claim 53, further comprising a projecting system for projecting said image light from said [image generator] liquid crystal panel.

55. (Amended) An image apparatus comprising:
a polarization changing unit of claim [51] 50; and
a liquid crystal panel [an image generator] for modulating a polarized light from said polarizing device or said polarization changing unit to generate an image light.

56. (Amended) An image apparatus according to claim 55, further comprising a projecting system for projecting said image light from said [image generator] liquid crystal panel.

71. (Thrice Amended) A [polarizing device] polarization changing unit comprising:

a lens array that makes a plurality of light beams; and

a polarizing device comprising:

a transparent plate which has a polarizing beam splitting surface on one surface and a reflection surface on the other surface, wherein [light] each of said plurality of light beams is incident on said transparent plate from said one surface side to be split into reflected light and transmitted light by said polarizing beam splitting surface so that the transmitted light is directed to said other surface and the transmitted light is [caused to] passed through said one surface by reflection by said reflection surface;

a half wavelength plate [for causing] array that causes polarizing directions of the transmitted light and the reflected light for each of the plurality of light beams which have been split by said polarizing beam splitting surface to be mutually coincident; and

wherein for each of the plurality of light beams one of said transmitted light and said reflected light is once passed through said half wavelength plate to rotate the polarizing direction by 90 degrees, whereby the polarizing directions of said transmitted light and said reflected light are made to be mutually coincident.

73. (Twice amended) A polarization changing unit according to Claim [72] 71, wherein said lens array is a cylindrical lens array or a fly eye lens array.

74. An image apparatus comprising:
[a polarizing device of claim 71 or]
a polarization changing unit of claim 73; and
a liquid crystal panel [an image generator] for modulating a polarized light from
said polarizing device or said polarization changing unit to generate an image light.

75. (Amended) An image apparatus according to claim 74, further comprising a
projecting system for projecting said image light from said [image generator] liquid
crystal panel.

76. (Thrice amended) An image apparatus comprising:
a polarization changing unit of claim [72] 71; and
a liquid crystal panel [an image generator] for modulating a polarized light from
said polarizing device or said polarization changing unit to generate an image light.

77. (Amended) An image apparatus according to claim 76, further comprising a
projecting system for projecting said image light from said [image generator] liquid
crystal panel.

78. (Twice Amended) A polarizing changing unit [device] according to Claim 71,
wherein said half wavelength plate is disposed on said transparent plate.

80. (Amended) A polarization changing unit according to Claim [79] 78, wherein said lens array is a cylindrical lens array or a fly eye lens array.

81. (Amended) An image apparatus comprising:
[a polarizing device of claim 78 or]
a polarization changing unit of claim 80; and
a liquid crystal panel [an image generator] for modulating a polarized light from said polarizing device or said polarization changing unit to generate an image light.

82. (Amended) An image apparatus according to claim 81, further comprising a projecting system for projecting said image light from said [image generator] liquid crystal panel.

83. (Amended) An image apparatus comprising:
a polarization changing unit of claim [79] 78; and
a liquid crystal panel [an image generator] for modulating a polarized light from said polarizing device or said polarization changing unit to generate an image light.

84. (Amended) An image apparatus according to claim 83, further comprising a projecting system for projecting said image light from said [image generator] liquid crystal panel.

85. (Twice Amended) A polarizing changing unit [device] according to Claim 71, wherein said half wavelength plate is disposed in a position apart from said transparent

plate.

87. (Amended) A polarization changing unit according to Claim 85 [86], wherein said lens array is a cylindrical lens array or a fly eye lens array.

88. (Amended) An image apparatus comprising:
[a polarizing device of claim 85 or]
a polarization changing unit of claim 87; and
a liquid crystal panel [an image generator] for modulating a polarized light from said polarizing device or said polarization changing unit to generate an image light.

89. (Amended) An image apparatus according to claim 88, further comprising a projecting system for projecting said image light from said [image generator] liquid crystal panel.

90. (Amended) An image apparatus comprising:
a polarization changing unit of claim [86] 85; and
a liquid crystal panel [an image generator] for modulating a polarized light from said polarizing device or said polarization changing unit to generate an image light.

91. (Amended) An image apparatus according to claim 90, further comprising a projecting system for projecting said image light from said [image generator] liquid crystal panel.